

THE PACIFIC

Commercial Advertiser

WALTER G. SMITH - - EDITOR

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14

The Bishop has several ways of observing Lent. One is to deny himself a Second Congregation.

There are signs of a coming kona. So far this winter konas have been scarce, and a big one is overdue.

We hope Sam's gubernatorial boom won't reach here in a kona storm. Too much cold water is bad for lean critics.

There is an easy way for Europe to convince us that we were thought well of during the Spanish war. It is to publish the pro-American notes which passed between the Premiers.

The only thing that will keep Bob Evans from giving Prince Henry a good time is his fear that the Kaiser may decorate him with a blue ribbon order and bring on strained relations with his club.

Mr. Carnegie seems to be under the impression that Honolulu is not in the United States. In the interests of a library here the Scottish Thistle Club ought to wake their generous compatriot up and show him a map.

If, as Mr. Griffith points out, the development of forests on Hawaiian public lands could best be achieved by means of Philippine pine, then the sooner these trees are introduced the better. The fact that the seeds of the pine are small and are carried some distance by the wind, enables a single tree to start a grove. Planted on Round Top and other nude mountain slopes near by they might add greatly to the beauties of the vineyard and be of marked commercial value as well.

The Home Rule organ consoles itself for the neglect of people at Washington to mention Wilcox for Governor by the remark that the Delegate is not selfish like other men and would not care to exchange his seat for one in the gubernatorial sphere. Not long ago Wilcox was writing here that he expected soon to succeed Mr. Dole and was quite ready to sacrifice himself on the altar of necessity. However, as he has no more chance to be Governor than he has to be King of Italy, the new development of an unselfish nature will stand him in good stead.

MYTHS OF HAWAII.

Nothing seems to be more firmly fixed in foreign opinion about the native people of Hawaii than the idea that they once were cannibals and that, at the time of Captain Cook's visit, they numbered 400,000 souls. A recent issue of the Anglican Church Chronicle quotes the Rev. Dr. Geo. W. Vandewater—the rotund and immaterial and effervescent Vandewater of the old University days—as saying that a congregation of 5000 native Hawaiians showed what had been done by the church with people who, "but fifty years ago were eaters of human flesh." It was a most amazing statement to come from any pulp—except Vandewater's—but it fairly represents the average, unintelligent opinion of the masses. To such critics all islands between Cancer and Capricorn were once inhabited by cannibals, though scientists declare that very many of them indeed, including particularly the Hawaiian group, had no man-eating savages.

The native traditions here, so far as can be traced, are quite accurate. For example, their tale which tells of the arrival on the beach some three hundred years ago of two white strangers who, when they got ashore, knelt and told their beads, corresponds almost precisely as to date with the Spanish narrative of the loss of ships by a kona storm from a fleet of galleons, passing south of here, while trading between Acapulco and Manila. As to the Cook tradition, as it exists in the Kona district, where the British navigator was killed and where the natives are more nearly in their primitive state than elsewhere, it discards the cannibal theory by means of a simple explanation. According to the account, "after the death of Captain Cook, who, during most of his intercourse with the natives had been regarded by them as a god, it was decided by the natives to make an offering of his body to the gods. The viscera were taken out and placed in a calabash, to be offered to one of the powerful gods of the sea of the Hawaiian theogony, the viscera being considered a higher and better offering than any other part of the body. The remainder of the body was to be offered to a less powerful god. While the viscera was in the calabash it was found by some children, who mistaking it for the viscera of a pig, which was considered a great delicacy, built a fire, cooked and ate it or part of it. The remainder of the body, as all accounts substantially agree, was afterwards returned to Cook's successor in command of the vessel."

A bit of circumstantial evidence lies in the fact that, many years ago, a native lived on Hawaii who was practically an outcast among his people because he was believed to have once eaten human flesh. A name indicative of horror and contempt was coined for him.

As to the theory that 400,000 people lived here in Cook's time it was disputed about forty years ago by James Jackson Jarves and has never appealed strongly to other investigators. The 400,000 estimate was Cook's own, and he based it on the vast crowds he met at every landing place and upon the number of natives he saw along shore. He did not know that the Hawaiians, good walkers and runners all, followed his ship from point to point and that he was seeing thousands over and over again. Furthermore, there was not food enough in this group for 400,000 people, nor was the social system of the people calculated to stimulate the growth of population. Between the wars and the sacrifice of the young and the occasional lean years, it is doubtful if the aborigines, when at their numerical zenith, had among them more than 150,000 souls.

TIME FOR ACTION.

The session of the National Congress has reached that stage where the most important of all legislation to the member, appropriations, are ready to be framed. In the bills which comprise the budget there is probably only one, the diplomatic and consular, in which this Territory does not have vital interest. It is therefore time to express to legislative friends opinions as to needs.

The most important fiscal legislation of the present session, not only for this Territory, but for the entire country, will be in the army and navy bills. In these will be provided the defense and repair, the barracks and the station items, and in both the land and sea establishments Hawaii is deeply involved. While the first named measure will appropriate money for constructing the defenses about the island, the greater sums are those to be expended behind these barriers of shot and shell, in the way of the naval station at Pearl Harbor. Millions it must take to place this station where it belongs in the list of such enterprises. What is to be undertaken right away cannot be forecast, but preliminary reports urge the inauguration of the work upon a scale which will be in keeping with its ultimate limits. This would comprise at least three high-class defenses about the two harbors and a first-class dry dock and machine shop. What would come later must depend upon the seeming necessities, the Eastern problem, perhaps, and generosity of chairmen of committees.

But while these are matters of very first importance, there are others which must not be overlooked. Primarily, there is a duty which Congress owes to this Territory. This is the improvement of the harbors. When it is considered that nearly one and a half millions of dollars are collected at the customs houses, it will be realized that the commerce of our group demands fostering care. All of this money goes to the national government and none returns, for other collections would more than pay all Federal salaries. The first step to ultimate improvement must be a survey and estimate provision. In the rivers and harbors bill of the last Congress such an item was inserted in the measure. It was knocked out in conference, however, and then the entire bill failed. It is probable that the same bill will be proposed at this session, and it would behoove islanders to locate any friends they may have and endeavor to work up sentiment for things Hawaiian. Should another chance arrive if the Delegate cannot hold the appropriation in the bill, perhaps some Republican friend may be found who will see that there is no change made.

"Tom" Reed, the famous Czar of the House, used always to refer to the rivers and harbors and public buildings bills as the "pork barrel," where, if any member cannot pick up a good thing it is because he mistakes the barrel altogether. Both measures should carry many items for Hawaii and the great need of watchfulness, would prompt the placing on guard of others than Wilcox, whose time must be fully occupied with his gubernatorial bee, by interesting them in our projects through letters or personal representations. Every appropriation measure affects the Territory, and the friends of the Territory should be thoroughly informed and equipped with argument and data.

THE BEER LICENSE DECISION.

Judge Estee's decision in the liquor cases appears to be good law. It is not common sense to suppose that any Territory can enforce a protective tariff act—which is what the Honolulu brewery bounty statute really amounts to—in favor of its own products and against those of any other part of the United States. We take it as a matter of course that Judge Estee's decision will be sustained.

In the meantime those who brought the license action may or may not rest content; but it is to be presumed that the Anti-Saloon League will feel in duty bound to begin proceedings against all saloon keepers who are selling beer on the authority of a law which the Federal court has declared to be unconstitutional. So much is threatened; the only question in the way being whether the appeal of the defendants constitutes an estoppel of such proceedings. Many lawyers say it does not.

What the cause of temperance will gain in the long run cannot be foreseen. Should the next Legislature step in and enact a beer license law of \$250, which we understand to be the program, not only would the Honolulu brewery people take advantage of it, but the mainland brewers as well, thus giving Hawaii more saloons than it now has, and perhaps starting a war that would reduce the price of beer to five cents a glass.

Obviously, therefore, the Anti-Saloon League, if it expects to achieve success, should put in its best links for a good Legislature. The Dispensary bill was killed by the last one, and then to prevent an investigation of the means, Judge Humphreys packed his grand jury of fifteen men with eight who were mixed up in the liquor business. So nothing can be hoped for either in the native or the Humphreys' political quarter. But if the Anti-Saloon League goes to work with the other interests that demand, and will work for a reform Legislature, there may be a chance that the next liquor law will be framed for the people and not for the wholesale and retail trade in alcoholic stimulants.

Wireless Telegraphy.

LONDON, Jan. 30.—Sir Wolfe Barry, chairman of the Eastern Extension Cable Company, asserts that the company does not fear wireless telegraphy, which will possibly become an adjunct to the cable. The company is studying the possibility and economy of erecting wireless stations in connection with their system over distances of about 100 miles, where cables would be disadvantageous.

Czar's Predecessors Attacked.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 30.—The writer of an article in the Rossiya, a Moscow journal, for attacking the immediate predecessors of the Czar, has been exiled to Siberia, the editor reported to Pskoff, and the Rossiya suppressed.

STEEL TRUST'S NEW BUSINESS

By the election of former Judge Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the great steel trust, to the same chairmanship in the Allis-Chalmers Company, the largest machinery company in the world, with its capital of \$25,000,000, it is believed that the trust has signified its taking over of the smaller corporation. The common opinion in Chicago, where are located the offices of the machinery company, is that the choice of Gary does not mean any change in the methods of the company, but that Mr. Chalmers as the chairman of the executive committee will continue to direct the policy of the concern. The company has a great deal of business here with pumps. The Chicago Tribune prints the story thus:

"The announcement has caused a sensation in commercial and financial circles, as it means that the steel trust intends reaching out into another line of business. William Allis, who retires, with General Superintendent Edwin Reynolds, says ill health is the principal cause, but refuses to give any information concerning the intentions of the company. It is understood that shipbuilding is to be the next step of the trust.

One who is well informed on the subject said:

"The object of the steel men of the country is toward community of interests. Gary is the controlling spirit in the big steel corporation that controls the steel, to say nothing of the output of the iron mines of the Lake Superior districts, and some of his associates in the shipbuilding trust and in several other allied steel enterprises. I should not be surprised if eventually the steel interests of the country, from the mining of ore to every form of the finished product of steel, were controlled by one company."

William J. Chalmers of Chicago is chairman of the executive committee of the company and in reality has been its chief. Mr. Allis being more or less of a figurehead. The corporation was the result of the consolidation of the E. P. Allis Company of Milwaukee with the Frazer & Chalmers Company and the P. W. Gates iron works of Chicago, all manufacturers of mining machinery and allied products.

Not long after the consolidation of the three concerns came the strike of the machinists, which for a time involved many industrial plants throughout the country. From time to time various companies effected settlements with their men, but the Allis-Chalmers Company has held out against the strikers. Mr. Chalmers being convinced of the injustice of their contention.

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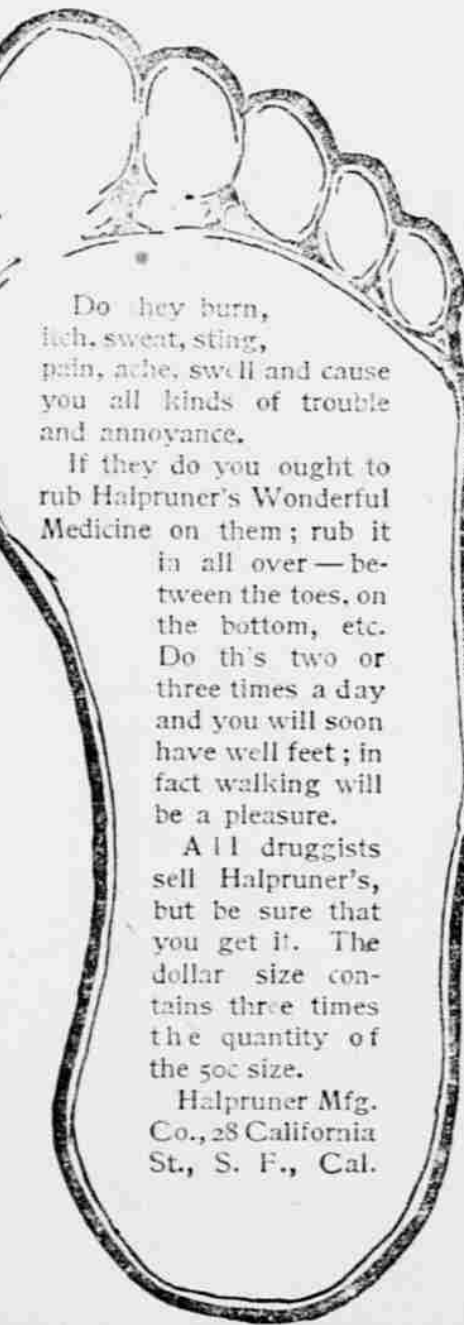
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